

Friday 10 May 2019

Comment on EIS-FELA Strike Action

Commenting on the decision by the EIS-FELA to resume their strike action next week on Wednesday, 15 May and Thursday, 16 May, Interim Director of Employment Services for Colleges Scotland Employers' Association, Heather Stevenson, said:

"It's extremely frustrating that the EIS-FELA has decided to resume their strikes and continue to attack students by withholding assessment results, but colleges are mitigating the impact of their action and we are confident their attempts to cause maximum disruption will not succeed.

"Colleges have now made ten offers to try and end this dispute, and despite progress being made in recent discussions, it is disappointing that the EIS-FELA has rejected our calls to suspend the strikes and take our offer to their members, as we believe they would recognise it is a good deal and accept.

"Lecturers in Scotland are by far the best paid in the UK, and the pay harmonisation rises from 2017 to 2020, combined with the improved pay offer on the table from colleges, equate to a national average increase of well over £5,000 – or more than 12%.

"Lecturers have also had significant improvements in terms and conditions over the same 2017-20 pay period, including an enviable 62 days' holiday per year and a reduction in class contact time to 23 hours per week. We believe this significantly improved offer should be taken to their members to decide and we will continue engaging with the EIS-FELA to end their industrial action."

ENDS

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